

*C.C.O.E.A. O.C.R.*

**Your  
Seattle  
City Light**

## Memorandum



**DATE** : October 21, 1980

**TO** : Denis DeVries

**FROM** : Dennis Candler *Dee*

**SUBJECT** : Northwest Public Power Association, PCB Workshop

*apparently there  
was no discussion  
of the food, car  
forbess*

I attended a ~~PCB Workshop in Portland Oregon on October 17, 1980~~ that was sponsored by the Northwest Public Power Association.

The workshop was chaired by Robert Homes of Franklin County PUD in Pasco. Mr. Homes did a good job of keeping the meeting orderly and interesting.

The initial presentation was by Margo Partridge of the Environmental Protection Agency in Seattle. She showed a film dealing with the pollution of Lake Michigan, and other incidences of PCB-type contamination. She also gave a slide presentation dealing with the Yusho incident in Japan which involved the ingestion of PCB by several thousand people and the effects of this accident. She gave a brief historical summary of PCB use in this country and an outline of the possible ill effects of exposure to the compound. After a presentation detailing the E.P.A. regulations regarding PCB, she concluded her program by fielding several difficult and sometimes caustic questions from those in attendance.

The second presentation was by Ellen Miller of the Food and Drug Administration in Seattle. She told of nine incidences of PCB spills in this country since 1971, dealing mainly with the 1979 western United States contamination, which was first discovered at a chicken farm in Franklin, Idaho and finally involved a total of over 170 products and a yet undetermined amount of money.

The final presentation in the morning session was by Dave Syverson, Fluids Division of the RTE Corporation in Waukesha, Wisconsin. He talked of retrofill procedures of PCB filled transformers using RTEmp as a replacement fluid. He also discussed the pros and cons of retrofill versus the purchase of new units.

After our lunch break, Bill Henle of Crowley Environmental Service Corp., Portland, gave a presentation outlining safe clean-up procedures in the event of PCB spills. He gave a general outline of the procedures to be followed and the hazards to be concerned with. The present City Light procedures seem to parallel those recommended by Mr. Henle.

Denis DeVries  
Page Two  
October 21, 1980

The final presentation of the workshop was by Scott Johnson from the Westinghouse Electric Corp., of Bloomington, Indiana. He dealt with the pros and cons of replacing existing PCB capacitors. He spoke of the new non-PCB capacitor fluid, Wemcol, and the advantages of the new capacitors over the old. He also addressed the disposal problems of PCB including the great expense of disposal. He also dealt with the problem of supplying new capacitors if a massive industry-wide change out were to be undertaken; concluding that an eight to ten-year change out period could be handled by the present four capacitor manufacturers without building new plants.

Before adjourning the workshop, a panel discussion of the present course of action regarding PCBs was conducted. The panel consisted of: Al Silva, Grant County PUD; Robert Homes, Franklin County PUD; Gary Ihle, Bonneville Power Administration; and James Seekins, Clark County PUD. In general most Northwest Utilities are taking the same approach as City Light, namely the replacement of existing PCB filled capacitors as failures occur. The one exception on the panel was Clark County PUD which has undertaken an immediate phase out of PCB.

In conclusion, I felt the workshop was well planned, orderly, and was very informative. The understanding which I personally gained concerning this touchy problem will be of value to me in weighing the options involving PCB.

DLC:edc

cc: Miller  
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File

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